Abplanalp, Nixon Friend, A Millionaire Industrialist

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WASHINGTON, May 25 — Robert H. Abplanalp, identified as the financial backer in the purchase of the Western White House, is President Nixon's "other" millionaire friend, shyer and not so well-known as Charles Rebozo, but at least as wealthy.

The son of an immigrant Swiss Machinist, Mr. Abplanalp (the name, pronounced AB-PLAN-ALP, means "from flat mountain", has amassed a personal fortune reportedly as high as $100-million since he invented the aerosol valve 24 years ago.

He is now the sole owner of the Precision Valve Corporation of Yonkers, which sells about 60 per cent of all the aerosol valves in the world.

Although Mr. Abplanalp, a burly six-footer, contributed heavily to Mr. Nixon's unsuccessful Presidential campaign in 1960, the two men did not become personally acquainted until 1963, after Mr. Nixon had moved to New York to practice law.

In the years before Mr. Nixon's second attempt for the Presidency in 1968, the two men developed a close personal relationship, lunching together frequently, as well as a professional one. Mr. Abplanalp retained the President's old law firm to handle the overseas affairs of his corporation.

When Mr. Abplanalp bought his two Bahamaian islands, Grand Gay and Walker's Cay, Mr. Nixon became a frequent visitor there, a practice he has continued since becoming President. "It's one place where the President can relax completely," a former White House aide has said.

Mr. Abplanalp, a strong conservative, has said he gave "several thousand dollars" to James L. Buckley's 1970 Senatorial campaign in New York, and is also a friend of J. Daniel Mahoney, a co-founder of the Conservative party in New York State.

Mr. Abplanalp, who was born in the Bronx and is 51 years old, has long been an ardent admirer of Mr. Nixon, whom he once called "a real intellectual," but their friendship has centered more on a common appreciation of sports and deep-sea fishing than on politics.

At least once, however, Mr. Abplanalp was moved to declare publicly his support for the President's policies. In 1970 he joined the "Tell It to Hanoi Committee," a short-lived organization formed by a number of Mr. Nixon's closest associates as a response to the movement against the war.

12 SAILORS SHIFTED IN NIXON YACHT UNIT

WASHINGTON, May 25 (AP) —Twelve sailors in the unit that maintains President Nixon's yacht, the Sequoia, have been transferred after some of them were discovered to be smoking marijuana, the Navy reported today.

The incident marked the second time this month that Navy men assigned to jobs near the President have been investigated for marijuana use.

The initial investigation, the Navy said, indicates that the sailors were smoking marijuana away from the Sequoia during off-duty hours.

Mr. Nixon has used the Sequoia, which is moored in the Potomac River in Washington, for evening cruises. Occasionally, he holds high-level staff meetings aboard the yacht.

On May 8, the Navy disclosed that 28 Marines and 18 sailors assigned to the Presidential retreat at Camp David, Md., were being reassigned pending an investigation into charges that some were smoking marijuana. In both the Camp David and the Sequoia incidents, the Navy said that there had been no security violations.

A Navy spokesman said that 11 of the 12 sailors being transferred had normally been assigned to duties aboard the Presidential yacht.

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